**Disability and Education**

* There is a lack of education data for disabled people. In particular, disability status is not currently routinely captured in school, so we have limited data, for example, on attendance and outcomes for disabled children.
* However, the data we have indicates disparities between disabled people and non-disabled people for both experiences and outcomes in the education system.

**Disabled people less likely to have top qualifications**  
Percent of people, by highest qualification achieved and disability status

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Disabled | Non-disabled |
| No qualification | 27 percent | 13 percent |
| Level 1-6 qualification | 57 percent | 55 percent |
| Level 7 and postgraduate qualifications | 17 percent | 32 percent |

Source: Household Disability Survey 2023

**Nearly three quarters of disabled children aged 0-4 enrolled in formal education**  
Percent of disabled children aged 0-4 years enrolled in formal education: 72 percent

Source: Household Disability Survey 2023

**1 in 6 parents of disabled children have been asked by ECE to keep their children at home**  
Percent of disabled children whose parents agreed with following statements

Have you ever been asked to keep your child at home:

* No: 83 percent
* Yes: 17 percent

How often has this happened (for those who answered yes):

* Rarely: 39 percent
* Sometimes: 33 percent
* Often: 28 percent

Source: A great start? Education for Disabled Children in Early Childhood Education 2022

While we know how many disabled children are enrolled in ECE, there are data gaps. For example, we don't know how many disabled children have had an ECE enrolment rejected, can only attend minimal hours, or chose not to enroll.

The data we do have suggests that ECE providers may be inadequately equipped to accommodate and teach disabled children with complex needs.

**Nearly all disabled people aged 5-15 enrolled in formal education**  
Percent of disabled children aged 5-15 years enrolled in formal education: 96 percent

Source: Household Disability Survey 2023

**Most disabled people enrolled in mainstream schools**  
Percent of disabled people in school, by type of school enrolled at:

* Mainstream school: 89 percent
* Specialist school: 6 percent
* Other (including Te Kura and home school): 6 percent

Source: Household Disability Survey 2023

**Disabled youth report lower attendance rates**  
Percent of students in secondary school who attend school most or all of the time, by group

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Overall | Disabled | Tāngata whaikaha Māori | Disabled Pacific |
| All of the time | 66 percent | 49 percent | 37 percent | 35 percent |
| Most of the time | 30 percent | 44 percent | 50 percent | 50 percent |
| Total all or most of the time | 96 percent | 93 percent | 87 percent | 85 percent |

Source: Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey 2021

**Difficulties experienced with enrolment and attendance**  
Percent of disabled students in school education, by difficulty experienced

* Had difficulty enrolling in a suitable school (because of a disability, condition, or health problem): 7 percent
* Unable to attend school for several weeks because of inadequate support at school: 12 percent
* Been stood down or formally removed from school: 12 percent
* Had to change schools (because of a disability, condition, or health problem): 16 percent
* Unable to attend school for several weeks because of health issues: 24 percent

Source: Household Disability Survey 2023

**Many disabled people experience difficulties in school**  
Percent of disabled students in schools, by difficulties experienced

* Getting to or from school: 10 percent
* Going to school events or outings: 28 percent
* Being included in group activities: 36 percent
* Taking part in sports or games: 38 percent
* Making friends: 46 percent
* Been bullied at school: 62 percent

Source: Household Disability Survey 2023

**Disabled youth report worse experiences in schools**  
Mean score (0-10 scale) for level of agreement with statement, by group

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Disabled | Overall |
| Feel teachers treat them fairly | 5.7 | 6.9 |
| Feel teachers consider their identity and values | 5.7 | 7.1 |
| Feel like they belong | 5.8 | 6.9 |
| Feel they can manage the work given | 6.5 | 7.5 |
| Feel learning important skills | 6.6 | 7.4 |

Source: Youth health and Wellbeing Survey 2021

**Many disabled people in schools receiving support**  
Percent of disabled students who received school accommodations

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Attends a special education unit or learning support centre | 16 percent |
| Support from health professional at school | 17 percent |
| Has assistive technology or equipment to help with schoolwork | 27 percent |
| Support from resource teacher or teacher aide | 36 percent |

Source: Household Disability Survey 2023

**Schools generally responsive to specific needs**  
Percent of disabled students in schools, by satisfaction with school responsiveness to specific need (1-5 scale, where 1 =very dissatisfied and 5 = very satisfied)

* 1 or 2: 11 percent
* 3: 22 percent
* 4 or 5: 67 percent

Source: Household Disability Survey 2023

**More unmet need in school than post-school education**  
Percent of disabled students with unmet need, by stage of study

* School education: 51 percent
* Post-school education: 34 percent

Source: Household Disability Survey 2023

**Many have unmet need in school education**Percent of disabled students with unmet need, by school accommodation

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Resource teacher or teacher aide | 38 percent |
| Health professional | 20 percent |
| Assistive technology | 16 percent |
| Accessible building features | 10 percent |
| Adapted classroom materials | 8 percent |

Source: Household Disability Survey 2023

**Trust in education system**  
Percent of people (15+), by trust in education system (0-10 scale) and group

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Tāngata whaikaha Māori | Disabled | Non-disabled |
| Low trust (0 to 4) | 36 percent | 28 percent | 17 percent |
| 5 to 6 | 32 percent | 34 percent | 29 percent |
| High trust (7 to 10) | 32 percent | 38 percent | 54 percent |

Source: General Social Survey (WGSS)

**Nearly a third of ORS applications not granted**  
Percent of disabled students in schools who applied for Ongoing Resources Scheme (ORS), by whether funding was granted

* 13 percent applied for ORS
* 9 percent were granted funding
* 4 percent were not granted funding

Source: Household Disability Survey 2023

**NEET rate higher for disabled people**  
Percent of people (15-24 years) who are Not in Employment, Education, or Training (NEET), by disability status

Disabled: 46 percent

Non-disabled: 11 percent

Source: Household Labour Force Survey 2024

38 percent of disabled people not in study or training would like to study or train in the future – a total 193,000

Source: Household Disability Survey 2023

**Finances and their disability, condition, or health condition biggest barriers to education for disabled people**  
Percent of disabled people (15+ years) who are not currently studying, by factors discouraging them from study

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Negative attitudes towards people with disabilities, conditions, or health problems | 3 percent |
| Need accessible buildings at places of study, or need assistive equipment or technology | 4 percent |
| Need personal support | 7 percent |
| Lack of information | 7 percent |
| Transport difficulties | 8 percent |
| Lack of suitable courses | 9 percent |
| Other | 11 percent |
| Lack of time, too busy with other commitments | 16 percent |
| Nothing | 18 percent |
| Their disability, condition, or health problem | 32 percent |
| Too expensive/financial reasons | 33 percent |

Source: Household disability survey 2023